



249. - Mountain Profile (Tasmania) - Cradle Mountain

The Forensic Record

1. Introduction:

Cradle Mountain is perhaps the most recognized peak in Tasmania. Its dramatic, jagged crescent shape is the result of massive dolerite injection and subsequent crustal fracturing, standing as a primary witness to the rapid tectonic reconfiguration of the region.

2. Title:

Cradle Mountain: The Iconic Monument of the Highlands

3. Number:

#5 (Tasmanian Sequence)

4. The Profile:

Elevation: 1,545 meters.

Cap Lithology: Jurassic Dolerite (Columnar, high-pressure igneous intrusion).

Consensus Uplift Age: ~64 Million Years (Cenozoic Orogeny).

5. The Denudation Paradox:

If we apply the consensus-accepted uplift age of 64 million years:

At 60mm/ka: The mountain would have vanished in 25,750,000 years.

At 20mm/ka: The mountain would have vanished in 77,250,000 years.

At 10mm/ka: The mountain would have vanished in 154,500,000 years.

At 7mm/ka: The mountain would have vanished in 220,714,000 years.

6. The Forensic Reality:

Standing at 1,545m, Cradle Mountain exists as a mathematical anomaly within the geological

consensus. If it had been exposed to the Tasmanian climate for 64 million years, it should have been leveled to the sea. Its current height confirms that the highland landscape was formed recently, the result of a powerful, tectonic "shunt" rather than millions of years of gradual change.

7. Description:

Cradle Mountain is comprised of a thick cap of dolerite, sitting atop steeply tilted sedimentary strata. The mountain's form—its distinct, sharp ridges and steep gullies—is not the product of ancient weathering, but the direct, residual signature of the catastrophic uplift event that "reset" the plateau. The landscape is a "fresh" surface, testifying to a recent tectonic upheaval that redirected all regional drainage in a singular moment of geological history.

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